

ANTI-JUG BILLS SUSTAIN DEFEAT

(Continued from first page.)

routine business yesterday. It is doing little in committee.

No decision has as yet been reached by the House Committee on Roads as to the rolling stock bills. Some further information has been asked for, and is awaited.

The House Committee on Privileges and Elections, on yesterday concluded hearings on the redistricting of House of Delegates districts. It will soon report a bill jointly with the Senate committee.

HOUSE

In the House yesterday, several matters on the calendar were reached before the hour of 12:30 arrived, bringing with it the special order—the Tax Commission bill. The motion to reconsider the vote by which the Richmond charter bill was passed, and its engrossment was again passed by, at the suggestion of Mr. Cox.

Senate bill No. 28 came up and was read a third time, and passed by a vote of 71 to 7. Mr. Gilliam moved to reconsider, saying the measure, which provides that the State Insurance Commissioner shall arrange for fire insurance on State property, would work great hardship on communities where these institutions are situated. The motion to reconsider was passed by.

The House passed the following Senate bills:

Authorizing the supervisors of Isle of Wight county to build a bridge across Jones's Creek.

Providing reasonable compensation for the road commissioners of Mecklenburg county for directing the expenditure of road funds.

Tax Bill Up Again.

The hour of 12:30 having arrived, the House went into Committee of the whole, with Mr. Cox in the chair, to consider the special order—House bill No. 25.

Judge Williams resumed the floor, which he yielded the day before for adjournment. He spoke of the spirit of restlessness over the administration of the tax laws, and freely admitted the demand for a change. He commended the evident desire on the part of members to do what is best for the State.

For his own section of the State, he had to say that the thirteen counties west of New River, counting franchise taxes, pay one-fourth of the entire revenue of the State. Somehow, he continued, all efforts to increase taxes finally end in burdening the agricultural interests. He read a letter just received from a Montgomery county farmer, who said he pays 20 per cent of his gross income in taxes.

There was no telling, pursued Judge Williams, how much the proposed bill would increase the tax burdens of the people of the State. It was the duty of the Legislature, in his judgment, to rather decrease public expenditure if possible.

Growing Officers.

"I recall when all the departments of the government were in the old Capitol building," he said. "Now we have the splendid library building, and yet we cannot get rooms to hold our committee meetings without trespassing on what some board or department thinks are its vested rights. We have too many boards, and should seek to reduce their number, instead of creating a new department for the purpose of reaching out after more taxes. Certainly the people would be better satisfied."

"This bill creates a board which would have the power to employ an unlimited number of justices; these men would have unlimited expenses, could summon unlimited witnesses, consume unlimited time, suspend county officers elected by the people pending a trial, and the commission could remove them after a hearing."

Is this Democratic government?

Judge Williams told how the commission could send a "little deputy" to Giles county, pay his expenses, allow him to summon witnesses and suspend an officer chosen by popular vote. If the commissioner of the revenue had not, in the deputy's opinion, assessed a horse at a sufficiently high figure, "No man," he said, "can tell what all this will cost. It is centralization to an extent unprecedented in legislation."

Again, the commission could prescribe uniform systems of bookkeeping. In Giles county there is a treasurer who has been in office for many years, and who has paid every dollar due the State and the county. To burden him with a certain system of bookkeeping might require him to employ an expert accountant at such figure as to consume most of his com-

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ALL DRUGGISTS 11-63

Then, treasurers meet men in their rounds on the roads, and erect their tax tickets with warrants which they may have. It is impossible, he said, for a treasurer to tell to the cent what he may owe the State on any particular day, and yet this "little deputy" might suspend him for not knowing.

As to equalization, he told of Bland county, where 75 per cent of the land brings in no revenue to the owner. The trees on it are counted and taxed, the mineral beneath is assessed and taxed, and the surface is taxed. On the north side of these ranges there are lime croppings, on the south side worthless shale. Local people know these conditions, no board in Richmond can know them.

Without prophesying, he referred to the result of tax equalization in West Virginia, where the Republican party has been swept from power.

Wants District Boards.

If necessary to have tax commissions, and he admitted a public clamor for some change, he suggested that there be local boards in each of the districts at a per diem, say, of five dollars. He said that the board would be made up of leading citizens in each district, to consult with local assessing officials, and get together once a year in a State meeting to try to work out better conditions. Or let there be a board in Richmond, with which these district boards could confer. He thought a tax commissioner a good thing; he was prepared to say that the report of the Tax Commission now before the Legislature was an indispensable recommendation for the guidance of the General Assembly. "But do not," he said, "let the commissioner be a dictator; let him seek further information and have it ready for the State officials."

Mr. Montague inquired if Judge Williams had not better prepare his own plan rather than offer opposition to that under discussion. He replied that he should not be censured for doing what he thought his duty. Mr. Houston asked if he objected to a commission with members from three different sections of the State. He said that would still be centralization; it was the power he opposed.

Judge Williams concluded with the statement that he reflected upon the motives of no one that he honored the men who are trying to solve the problem, and that he was willing to join hands in an effort to really improve conditions in regard to an equal sharing of the burdens of taxation.

Duty of Democratic Party.

Mr. Byrd replied. He said, in the first place, that this should not be a political matter. It was the duty of the Democratic majority to do the right thing, whether it were the expedient thing or not. In regard to West Virginia, he knew the circumstances, and had himself made a speech for the Democrats there, taking the same line just pursued by Judge Williams. This speech he now regretted. As a result of tax equalization in West Virginia, the State rate has been reduced to 12 cents on the \$100, compared with 35 cents in Virginia. No one there would now go back to the old system, and, as a matter of fact, Republican defeat was caused by crimes not connected with tax problems.

To consider that the Tax Commission bill contemplates an increase in taxes was, he said, a fundamental misconception. It was really aimed at a reduction. He would, he continued, offer an amendment to make an automatic decrease in the levy when there is an increase in the assessment. Then he proposed local law inequalities.

In Grayson county horses are assessed at an average of \$18.71 each; in Loudoun county, at \$41.91. Not that Grayson horses are worth as much as in Loudoun, but such discrepancy does not exist. Grayson cattle are valued at \$14.14 each, and Loudoun cattle at \$28.21.

Southwest Taxes.

"We hear Southwest people talk of

their fine cattle, except when it comes to tax returns. We hear them speak of their splendid country, which is superior to all others, save in the eyes of the land assessors and commissioners of the revenue. Men may profit by these conditions, but structures builded upon the altars of selfishness must inevitably fall.

Why should Scott county be permitted to draw from the State Treasury \$22,283.29 more than it puts in? Why should Patrick county draw out \$15,316.21 more than it puts in; why should Pittsylvania draw \$19,987.33 more than it puts in; why should Carroll draw out \$20,273.15 more than it puts in? There are counties in this State with large negro non-tax-paying populations, which pay their own domestic expenses, pay their proportion of the State's expenses, and then contribute a share to the payment of the internal expenses of the State, and the prosperous counties. A horse driven through the seven magisterial districts of Shenandoah county has seven different values on each.

Referring to a suggestion from Mr. Gilliam, Mr. Byrd said he would agree to a change by which commissioners of the revenue could be removed from office by their own local circuit courts after trial, instead of by the State Tax Commission.

He said he realized he could have taken a more popular position had he not tried to remedy conditions. He hoped the members of the Legislature would not go home and say the people are incapable of judging of this question.

Mr. Rutherford said the Democratic party had nothing to fear if it does its duty. He knew values were vastly unequal. For his part, and on the part of the counties he represents, they were willing to face the issue.

Not Obstructionist.

Mr. White, of Rockbridge, repudiated the charge that he was an obstructionist. He saw the need for remedial action, but said care must be taken that they would not be worse than the disease. He called attention to the fact that the bill provides that commissioners of the revenue would not be paid until their books were examined and approved by the State commission.

Mr. Byrd said he would be willing to strike this from the bill. "One by one," said Mr. White, "they are going. I pray God the whole will go." He said that such changes are accepted shows that the bill was drawn carefully and thoughtfully, and that it was the work of the distorted brain of a theorist.

Mr. White pictured Virginia as in a death struggle to retain her liberties. He would oppose a commission of one-thousandth of the power proposed in the bill. The courts, he said, can now remove commissioners of the revenue.

He suggested that the law make it mandatory on circuit judges to call special grand juries as soon as the assessors' reports are in, and examine witnesses and indict those who have not given in their own property at fair valuations. This was done in Danville, he said, and people flocked in to change the figures to suit their indictment. Further, judges might exchange circuits at such times.

Prefer Segregation.

But he wanted to stick to his plan of segregation. It would, he said, give the counties stable revenue. They would get back the 35 cents they now pay in State taxes, and in all but one or thirty counties this would reimburse for the loss of license. Those counties which would lose are in the main those where assessments are now too low. In these the rate could be raised. Segregation, he said, would settle the problem of equalization.

The purchaser of Virginia land now looks askance at the high levies and low assessments, but with higher valuations and lower rates he would be satisfied. The report of the Tax Commission, he argued, shows that segregation is practicable.

Mr. Weaver asked some questions about the effect, feeling that counties which have railroads would give up large incomes, and that those which have none would give up nothing. Mr. White said the counties would not care, since they had nothing to lose. The former Attorney-General and the former Assistant Attorney-General were quoted by Mr. White as saying that segregation is feasible.

At all events, he thought the bill unconstitutional, as the Constitution requires that all property be assessed at its fair market value.

Colonel Bowman Speaks.

Colonel A. M. Bowman, chairman of the House Finance Committee, spoke for the bill, he said, at one time as full of the segregation idea. Mr. White is now. But his experience on the State Tax Commission had shown him the grave injustice it would work to the State and to many sections. If Mr. White would present just what he wanted the committee would consider it.

Mr. Roberts felt that Judge Williams' plan of district equalization boards was good, and that they could agree with each other and do much to remedy conditions.

At 2 o'clock the committee of the whole rose and reported to the House, which adjourned.

SENATE

Rev. E. T. McFadden, D. D., of the First Presbyterian Church, opened the Senate with prayer yesterday at noon, and Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Elyson presided. A large number of bills of minor importance were reported by the standing committees, and taken up for consideration on the calendar. Senator Drewry's bill, providing for the creation of a bureau of vital statistics, was reported with a number of amendments by Courts of Justice, and was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The bill to amend the present law relative to the classification and delivery of dead bodies, which came up on its second reading, was passed on to its engrossment with important amendments after strong opposition. In its amended form the bill exempts from the provisions of the proposed law county almshouses, State hospitals, and soldiers' homes. Senator Tavenner, who proposed the amendments and defended them against Senator Folkes and Senator Gravatt, contended that sentiment demands that the bodies of these persons be kept from the dissecting room.

Senator Folkes pointed out that the law as amended contained nothing that could prevent the surgeons and physicians of the exempted institutions from performing autopsies and dissecting themselves, and suggested that to be consistent the sentiment argument should be applied to these also.

Amend Garishaw Law.

The only other debate of the session arose over the House bill on its second reading, which provides for a decrease in the garishaw exemption from \$50 to \$25. While declaring himself heartily in favor of any law which would exempt the bodies of the poor from the dissecting room, Senator Folkes contended that no law passed by the General Assembly without

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To get its beneficial effects it is always necessary to buy the genuine, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., bearing the name of the Company, plainly printed on the front of every package.

In the past ten years will cause as much human suffering as this one. Thousands of dollars in outstanding judgments will become collectible under this law from workmen who are in no condition to meet the demand at this time.

The nation of the bill in the House agreed to accept an amendment proposed by Senator Folkes, providing that the law shall have no effect on judgments awarded under the old \$50 exemption, but shall apply only to judgments in the future. The bill was then advanced to its engrossment as amended.

House Bills Engrossed.

The following House bills passed on their second reading and were ordered engrossed:

To amend the present law submitting the question of removing the county of any county to the voters of such a county.

To amend an act entitled "An act to organize county and city boards of school commissioners."

To amend the Code of Virginia relative to the extension of the corporate limits of cities and towns.

To amend an act entitled "An act to authorize cities to create, improve and develop harbors within the corporate limits, or within two miles thereof."

To authorize the town of Pocahontas, in Tazewell county, to sell and convey the fee in part of a certain street.

To amend the act of May 21, 1903, on corporations.

To amend the Code of Virginia in relation to limitations of personal actions.

Prohibiting the direction of verdicts to what cases applicable.

To amend an act relating to demurrers to evidence.

To amend and re-enact Section 5652 of the Code of Virginia of 1887.

Senate Bills.

The following Senate bills were advanced from their second to their third reading:

To amend the general insurance law, providing that partnership real estate shall be treated as personal property, unless a different intention shall appear.

To amend the law in relation to fees of attorneys for the Commonwealth.

To provide a way of ingress and egress for mining, manufacturing and lumber getting over wild and uncultivated lands.

On their first reading the following Senate bills were advanced:

To authorize the county of Louisa to borrow temporarily not exceeding \$15,000.

To amend the charter of the city of Suffolk.

To require the board of bridge commissioners of the Falmouth bridge, in the county of Stafford, to let out the collecting of tolls and keeping of said bridge to the highest bidder.

To prevent untrue, deceptive and misleading advertising, and making such advertising a misdemeanor.

Fixing the salaries of certain county officers of the State and prescribing the fees to be collected by such officers.

To amend the present law in relation to appointment of commissioners in chancery.

To amend the Code of Virginia in relation to the effect in suits for the sale of contingent estates.

To amend the present law in relation to the drainage of swamps.

To cure certain irregularities now existing in respect to certain entries, surveys and grants.

To amend the Code of Virginia as to the law forbidding councilmen or other city officers to have interest in contracts with or claims against their city.

To amend the Code of Virginia in relation to State depositories.

To authorize the board of supervisors of any county to expend the amount received from levy or tax on the railroad trackage and right of way in such magisterial district as it may deem advisable, just and equitable.

To amend the Code of Virginia in relation to the qualifications and qualifications for office. This was Senator Harman's woman suffrage bill, which was reported by the Committee on Privileges and Elections with the recommendation that it do not pass.

The Senate adjourned at 1:45.

HOUSE BILLS

The following were presented and referred under Rule 57:

To Committee for Courts of Justice.

To Committee for Courts of Justice, for the collection of fines and commitment of a convicted person to jail unless the fine imposed upon such person is paid.

To Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Banks: A bill to provide cheap school books at cost to public school pupils of Virginia.

By Mr. Thompson: A bill to amend and re-enact section 1507 of the Code of Virginia.

By Messrs. Chalkley and Robertson: A bill to amend the general tax law.

To Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

By Mr. Moncure: A bill to stipulate what shall constitute a full crew on passenger and freight trains in the State of Virginia.

To Committee on Agriculture and Mining.

By Mr. Adams: A bill to amend an act to protect and advance agriculture by regulating the sale and purity of commercial fertilizers.

To Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

By Mr. Banks: A bill to amend an act to provide for local assessments in cities and towns.

By Mr. Land: A bill to prohibit driving and riding on sidewalks in unincorporated towns and villages.

To Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Moncure: A bill to appropriate \$525.45 for the reimbursement of William E. Haas on account of money wrongfully shot by Virginia officials, and to cover the expenses occasioned to him thereby.

By Mr. Grant: A bill to amend and re-enact chapter 37 of the Acts of 1899 and 1900 with regard to dogs running at large in the county of Russell.

By Mr. Webb: A bill to amend the road law of the county of Carroll.

By Mr. Coleman, of Spotsylvania (by request): A bill to submit to the qualified voters of the city of Fredericksburg, Va., at a special election to be held therefor, the question of the establishing in the said city of a dispensary for the sale of intoxicating liquor therein.

By Mr. Coleman, of Spotsylvania: A bill to authorize the City Council of Fredericksburg to issue its common or registration bonds for the purpose of improving its streets in said city.

By Mr. Stephenson, of James City: A bill to amend chapter 56 of the Code of Virginia in relation to the preservation of certain birds and animals, and to prevent unlawful hunting for as the same applies to the counties of New Kent, Charles City and James City, and making carrying a gun under certain conditions a misdemeanor.

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SENATE BILLS

By Mr. Leamer: A bill to repeal section 612 of the Code of Virginia. Referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

By Mr. Moncure: A bill to authorize the City Council of Fredericksburg to issue its coupon or registered bonds for the purpose of improving its streets in said city. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Leamer: A bill to amend an act entitled an act to raise revenue for the support of the government and public free schools, and to pay the interest on the public debt. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Blanks: A bill to authorize and re-enact section 509 of the Code of Virginia, by which E. P. Buford for services rendered by him to the Commonwealth in the Supreme Court of Appeals. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Gayle: A bill to incorporate the town of Dillwyn, in Buckingham county. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Brock: A bill to prohibit driving and riding on sidewalks in unincorporated towns and villages. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Brock: A bill to provide for compensation of treasurers for receiving and paying over revenues. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Rinehart: A bill to amend and re-enact section 509 of the Code of Virginia. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Montague: A bill to amend the Code of Virginia in relation to the appointment of deputies; their powers and how removed. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Thornton: A bill to provide a trial jury in all counties having a population in excess of 300 persons per square mile, as shown by United States census, to exercise jurisdiction on both civil matters, and to fix his compensation. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Thornton: A bill to require a license for nonresidents to fish in the waters under the jurisdiction of the State of Virginia. Referred to the Committee on Fish and Game.

By Mr. Thornton: A bill to relieve the land of Gustave B. Wright, in Fairfax county, Va., from the apparent lien of one of the cases of Commonwealth vs. R. T. Payne. Referred to the Joint Committee on Special, Private and Local Legislation.

By Mr. Holt: A bill providing for the safety of vehicles on the highways in the State of Virginia. Referred to the Committee on General Laws.

By Mr. Holt: A bill to amend the Code of Virginia in relation to writs of error. Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

By Mr. West: A bill to amend an act concerning public service corporations, so as to require railroad companies, under certain conditions, to keep in their employ two ticket agents at certain regular passenger stations along their lines. Referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

Before the House Committee on Agriculture and Mining, this afternoon at 1 o'clock, will come the Throckmorton and Cox bills providing for the inspection of the milk supply of cities. Mr. Throckmorton's measure will be opposed by the health authorities of Richmond and of other cities in the State, and it is expected that big delegations will assemble in the hall of the House of Delegates. The Cox bill, it is understood, was prepared by Chief Health Officer Levy, of this city. Both provide some sort of appeal from decisions of health officials, but in entirely different ways.

The argument against the Throckmorton bill is that it takes away from localities the final right of determining what milk shall or shall not be sold therein.

The full train crew, which has been under fire in the Senate, was introduced in the House yesterday by Robinson Moncure of Alexandria.

B. A. Banks, of Norfolk, proposed a bill in the House yesterday which has for its purpose the purchase by the State of school books and their sale to pupils at cost. They would be shipped by the State Board of Education to local superintendents and principals, and then distributed.

If in good condition, books would be bought back at 25 per cent, of original cost.

A complete HYOMEI outfit, including inhaler, costs \$1.00 at Tragle's and dealers everywhere. Money back if not satisfied when you use HYOMEI for catarrh, catarrhal deafness, coughs, colds and croup. HYOMEI contains no opium, cocaine, mercury or other harmful drugs.

Read the directions carefully, and if you are afflicted with a stubborn case of catarrh use the vapor treatment as directed.

Remember that the little hard rubber inhaler will last a lifetime, and that an extra bottle of HYOMEI with a generous supply of gauze can be obtained for only 50 cents.

Never mind how strongly of HYOMEI the inhaler smells, to get actual benefit 15 drops of HYOMEI should be poured into the inhaler three times a day. A less amount won't destroy the germs.

Change the gauze in the inhaler every week, or better still, every four days—remove both stoppers from inhaler before using.

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C. R. Coleman, by request, offered in the House yesterday the bill allowing the people of Fredericksburg to vote on the question of establishing a liquor dispensary. The City Council is behind the bill.

Professional baseball games will not be taxed in Virginia, at the present outlook. The House Finance Committee on yesterday morning reported the bill covering several increases in licenses, with this feature stricken out. The State Tax Commission recommended such a license, graduated according to the capacity of parks, on the ground that these games were public amusements and should pay as others which charge entrance fees. The committee felt that in Virginia baseball is not a money-making institution, as leagues can hardly get along.

Pawnbrokers do not fare quite so badly as was expected. The Finance Committee of the House on yesterday morning decided to cut the license fee of the State from the \$500 proposed in the bill to \$250. The tax now is \$250 a year.

The Bowman bill, to require railroads in the same town to make connection, provided they can secure consent from the State Corporation Commission, was argued yesterday afternoon before the Finance Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation. Colonel Bowman closed the debate for his bill, telling of the conditions at Salem, where ships have to either unload from the Virginia Railway tracks, when that road has brought a car, or else to have the car shipped to Roanoke and come back by the Norfolk and Western, at a cost of \$16 to \$18. Railroad representatives protested vigorously, saying that they should not be compelled to make such connections.

The Senate Committee for Courts of Justice reported yesterday afternoon Senator Tavenner's bill providing that not more than one tollgate be erected on any one five-mile section of a turnpike. The bill bears particularly upon the Valley Turnpike, and is designed to prevent the collection of extra fares on that road.

Senator Hart's bill giving the right to cities to designate segregated districts for the residences of white and colored citizens, and providing a penalty for the violation of the law, was reported favorably by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice at their meeting yesterday afternoon.

The Senate Committee on Finance began last night the important work of framing the annual appropriation bill. The task will consume several days. In addition to going over several projected appropriations, the committee reported the bill to permit county treasurers to select the bank or banks in which to deposit the county funds.

At a meeting of the subcommittee, appointed